Driving the vehicle

The following procedures should be observed to ensure safe driving:

n Starting the engine

→P. 98

n Driving

STEP 1 With the brake pedal depressed, select 1st gear. (→P. 102)

Check that "D1" or "1" is displayed on the gear indicator.

STEP 2 Release the parking brake. (→P. 113)

STEP 3 Gradually release the brake pedal and gently depress the accelerator pedal to accelerate the vehicle.

n Stopping

STEP 1 Depress the brake pedal.

STEP 2 If necessary, set the parking brake.

If the vehicle is to be stopped for an extended period of time, select Neutral. (→P. 103)

n Parking the vehicle

STEP 1 Depress the brake pedal.

STEP 2 Set the parking brake. (→P. 113)

STEP 3 Select 1st gear or Reverse. (→P. 102)

Check that "D1", "1" or "R" is displayed on the gear indicator.

STEP 4 Turn the ignition switch to the "LOCK" position to stop the engine.

Check that "D1" or "R" is no longer displayed on the gear indicator.

STEP 5 Lock the door, making sure that you have the key on your person.

Starting on a steep uphill

The hill-start assist control (→P. 166) operates to help reduce the distance that the vehicle rolls backward when starting on an incline. However, under certain conditions hill-start assist control may not work. In that case, follow the procedure below.

STEP 1 Make sure that the parking brake is set and select 1st gear.

STEP 2 Gently depress the accelerator pedal.

STEP 3 Release the parking brake.

Shifting gears

→P. 102

Breaking in your new LFA

To extend the life of the vehicle, observing the following precautions is recommended:

- For the first 186 miles (300 km):
  Avoid sudden stops.
- For the first 621 miles (1000 km):
  - Do not drive at extremely high speeds.
  - Avoid sudden acceleration.
  - Do not drive continuously in low gears.
  - Do not drive at a constant speed for extended periods.

Engine speed restrictions

The following restrictions exist for engine protection:

- The engine speed is limited to 7400 rpm if the total mileage shown on the odometer is less than 310 miles (500 km).
- The engine speed is limited when the engine is not sufficiently warmed-up, such as immediately after the engine is started or during the engine warm-up period. The variable red zone shows the maximum engine speed currently available. (→P. 119)
- The engine speed is limited to 4400 rpm for approximately 8 minutes when the engine is started with the coolant temperature at 5°F (-15 °C) or lower.
- The engine speed may be limited when either the coolant temperature gauge or oil temperature gauge is flashing.

Idling with five cylinders

To improve fuel consumption, the engine may idle at a reduced speed using five cylinders on one side of the engine while stopped or immediately before stopping when 1st gear is selected in AUTO driving mode. During this time, "5 cylinders idling" will be displayed on the meter and vibration or a change in engine sound may occur. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.

ASG (Automated Sequential Gearbox) operating sounds

→P. 110

Braking sound

- As the LFA uses CCM (Carbon Ceramic Material) brake discs with high-friction pads, it may be possible to hear the sound of the brakes operating (such as a rubbing or squealing sound). This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.
- The sound of a motor operating may be heard after the engine is stopped. This does not indicate a malfunction.

Driving in the rain

- Drive carefully when it is raining, because visibility will be reduced, the windows may become fogged-up, and the road will be slippery.
- Drive carefully when it starts to rain, because the road surface will be especially slippery.
- Refrain from driving at high speeds on wet surfaces such as on an expressway in the rain, as the LFA is fitted with wide-tread tires that may increase the risk of hydroplaning.

■ **When parking the vehicle**

→P. 110

■ **Operating your vehicle in a foreign country**

Comply with the relevant vehicle registration laws and confirm the availability of the correct fuel. (→P. 360)

CAUTION

■ **When driving the vehicle**

- Do not drive if you are unfamiliar with the location of the brake and accelerator pedals to avoid depressing the wrong pedal.
    - Accidentally depressing the accelerator pedal instead of the brake pedal will result in sudden acceleration that may lead to an accident that could result in death or serious injury.
    - When backing up, you may twist your body around, leading to a difficulty in operating the pedals. Make sure to operate the pedals properly.
    - Make sure to keep a correct driving posture even when moving the vehicle only slightly. This allows you to depress the brake and accelerator pedals properly.
- Do not drive the vehicle over or stop the vehicle near flammable materials.
  The exhaust system and exhaust gases can be extremely hot. These hot parts may cause a fire if there is any flammable material nearby.
- If the smell of exhaust is noticed inside the vehicle, open the windows and check that the rear hatch is closed. Large amounts of exhaust in the vehicle can cause driver drowsiness and an accident, resulting in death or a serious health hazard. Have the vehicle inspected by your Lexus dealer immediately.
- Do not select Neutral while the vehicle is moving.
  Doing so may cause insufficient engine braking, resulting in an accident.
- Do not turn the engine off while driving.
  The power steering system will not operate properly if the engine is not running.
- Use engine braking (downshift) to maintain a safe speed when driving down a steep hill.
  Using the brakes continuously may cause the brakes to overheat and lose effectiveness.

CAUTION

- Do not adjust the positions of the steering wheel, the seat, or the inside or outside rear view mirrors while driving.
  Doing so may result in a loss of vehicle control that can cause accidents, resulting in death or serious injury.
- Always check that all occupants' arms, heads and other body parts are not outside the vehicle, as this may result in death or serious injury.

When driving on slippery road surfaces

- Sudden braking, acceleration and steering may cause tire slippage and reduce your ability to control the vehicle, resulting in an accident.
- Sudden changes in engine speed, such as engine braking caused by up-shifting and down-shifting, may cause the vehicle to skid, resulting in an accident.
- After driving through a puddle, lightly depress the brake pedal to make sure that the brakes are functioning properly. Wet brake pads may prevent the brakes from functioning properly. If the brakes on only one side are wet and not functioning properly, steering control may be affected, resulting in an accident.

When operating the paddle shift switches/reverse selector switch

Do not operate the paddle shift switches or reverse selector switch with the accelerator pedal depressed and Neutral selected.
Doing so may lead to unexpected rapid acceleration of the vehicle that may cause an accident and result in death or serious injury.

If a brake pad wear warning message is displayed

Have your Lexus dealer check and replace the brake pads as soon as possible.
The disc damage can result if the pads are not replaced when needed.

Moderate levels of the brake pad and disc wear allow enhanced braking power. As a result, the discs may wear more quickly than conventional brake discs. Therefore, when replacing the brake pads, Lexus recommends that you also have the thickness of the discs measured.
It is dangerous to drive the vehicle when the wear limits of the brake pads and/or those of the brake discs are exceeded.

CAUTION

n **When the vehicle is stopped**

l Do not race the engine.

- If the vehicle is in any gear other than Neutral the vehicle may accelerate suddenly and unexpectedly, causing an accident.
- Running the engine at high speed while the vehicle is stopped may cause the exhaust system to overheat, which could result in a fire if flammable material is nearby.
- Racing the engine may emit loud noise, and possibly cause a nuisance, especially after just starting the engine. This is because the structure of the exhaust pipes cause the sound emitted from the exhaust to be louder than usual for approximately 1 minute after the engine is started.

l Do not leave the vehicle with the engine running for a long time.
If such a situation cannot be avoided, park the vehicle in an open space and check that exhaust fumes do not enter the vehicle interior.

l If the vehicle is stopped on an incline, in order to prevent accidents caused by the vehicle rolling forward or backward, always depress the brake pedal and securely apply the parking brake as needed.

n **When the vehicle is parked**

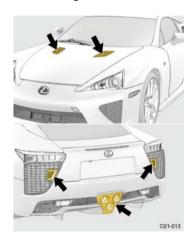
l Do not leave glasses, cigarette lighters, spray cans, or soft drink cans in the vehicle when it is in the sun.
Doing so may result in the following:

- Gas may leak from a cigarette lighter or spray can, and may lead to a fire.
- The temperature inside the vehicle may cause the plastic lenses and plastic material of glasses to deform or crack.
- Soft drink cans may fracture, causing the contents to spray over the interior of the vehicle, and may also cause a short circuit in the vehicle's electrical components.

l Do not leave cigarette lighters in the vehicle. If a cigarette lighter is in a place such as the glove box or on the floor, it may be lit accidentally when luggage is loaded or the seat is adjusted, causing a fire.

l Do not attach adhesive discs to the windshield or windows. Do not place containers such as air fresheners on the instrument panel or dashboard. Adhesive discs or containers may act as lenses, causing a fire in the vehicle.

CAUTION

- Do not leave a door or window open if the curved glass is coated with a metallized film such as a silver-colored one. Reflected sunlight may cause the glass to act as a lens, causing a fire.
- Always apply the parking brake, select 1st gear or Reverse, stop the engine and lock the vehicle.
  Do not leave the vehicle unattended while the engine is running.
- Do not stop the engine without first checking the gear indicator to confirm that either 1st gear or Reverse is selected.

- Do not touch the hood grilles, bezels in the radiator grilles, or exhaust pipes and surrounding area while the engine is running or immediately after turning the engine off. Doing so may cause burns.
- Do not leave the engine running in an area with snow build-up, or where it is snowing. If snowbanks build up around the vehicle while the engine is running, exhaust gases may collect and enter the vehicle. This may lead to death or a serious health hazard.

CAUTION

- **Exhaust gases**

  Exhaust gases include harmful carbon monoxide (CO), which is colorless and odorless. Inhaling exhaust gases may lead to death or a serious health hazard.

  - If the vehicle is in a poorly ventilated area, stop the engine. In a closed area, such as a garage, exhaust gases may collect and enter the vehicle. This may lead to death or a serious health hazard.
  - The exhaust system should be checked occasionally. If there is a hole or crack caused by corrosion, damage to a joint or abnormal exhaust noise, be sure to have the vehicle inspected and repaired by your Lexus dealer. Failure to do so may allow exhaust gases to enter the vehicle, resulting in death or a serious health hazard.

- **When taking a nap in the vehicle**

  Always turn the engine off. If you take a nap with the engine on, you may accidentally depress the accelerator and an accident or fire may occur due to engine overheating. In addition, if the vehicle is parked in a poorly ventilated area, exhaust gases may enter the vehicle, leading to death or a serious health hazard.

- **When braking the vehicle**

  - Be especially careful if the brakes are wet, such as when driving on wet or snowy roads or immediately after washing the vehicle. When the brakes are wet, their efficiency may be reduced and the vehicle may brake unevenly to the left or right. The efficiency of the parking brake may also be reduced.
  - The brake system consists of 3 individual hydraulic systems; if one of the systems fails, the others will still operate. In this case, the brake pedal should be depressed more firmly than usual and the braking distance will increase. If this happens, do not continue to drive the vehicle. If the brake system warning light (red indicator) comes on together with the buzzer sound while driving, immediately stop the vehicle in a safe place and contact your Lexus dealer.

NOTICE

- **When driving the vehicle**
  - Do not depress the accelerator and brake pedals at the same time during driving. If the brake pedal is depressed while driving with the accelerator pedal depressed, driving torque may be restrained.
  - Do not use the accelerator pedal or depress the accelerator and brake pedals at the same time to hold the vehicle on a hill. Doing so may damage the clutch.
- **When parking the vehicle**
  - Parking with the rear of the vehicle close to a wall or similar structure may cause the area around the exhaust pipes to overheat. As this may result in damage to the rear bumper or other components, be sure to park the vehicle rear end as far away as possible from walls and other such structures.
  - When it rains, do not park on a slope with an angle of 15 degrees or more, as rain-water may enter the vehicle. If parking at such an angle is unavoidable, use wheel chocks and place a car cover over the vehicle.
- **Avoiding damage to vehicle parts**
  - Do not turn the steering wheel fully in either direction and hold it there for an extended period of time.
    Doing so may damage the power steering motor.
  - When driving over bumps in the road, be careful and drive as slowly as possible to avoid damaging the wheels, tires, underside of the vehicle, etc.
- **If you get a flat tire while driving**

  A flat or damaged tire may cause the following situations. Hold the steering wheel firmly and gradually depress the brake pedal to slow down the vehicle.
  - It may be difficult to control your vehicle.
  - The vehicle will make abnormal sounds or vibrations.
  - The vehicle will lean.

  Information on what to do in case of a flat tire (→P. 332)

NOTICE

When encountering flooded roads

Do not drive on a road that has flooded after heavy rain etc. Doing so may cause the following serious damage to the vehicle:

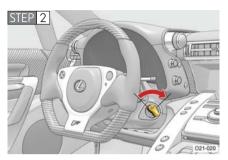
- Engine stalling
- Short in electrical components
- Engine damage caused by water immersion

In the event that you drive on a flooded road and the vehicle is flooded, be sure to have your Lexus dealer check the following:

- Brake function
- Changes in quantity and quality of oil and fluid used for the engine, transmission, differential, etc.
- Lubrication problems of bearings, joints, etc.

Ignition switch

n Starting the engine

STEP 1 Sit in the driver's seat and firmly depress the brake pedal.

Turn the ignition switch to the "ON" position.

The current gear will be displayed on the meter as a blinking symbol.

Pull both paddle shift switches at the same time.

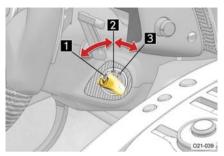
"N" will be displayed in the gear indicator.

The indicator light on the steering wheel illuminates in red.

Press the "ENGINE START" switch.

After one press, the engine will crank until it starts or for up to 20 seconds, whichever is less.

Continue depressing the brake pedal until the engine is completely started.

■ **Changing the ignition switch positions**

1 "LOCK"

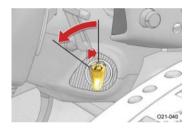
The steering wheel is locked and the key can be removed.

2 "ACC"

Some electrical components such as the power outlet can be used.

3 "ON"

All electrical components can be used.

■ **Turning the key from "ACC" to "LOCK"**

Push in the key and turn it to the "LOCK" position.

■ **Default driving mode**

AUTO driving mode will be automatically selected each time the engine is started. (→P. 104)

If the engine does not start

- Repeat the procedure again. If the engine does not start after a few tries, the “ENGINE START” switch may be malfunctioning. Have the vehicle inspected by your Lexus dealer.
- Check to make sure that the brake pedal is firmly depressed and that “N” is displayed in the gear indicator. (If the brake pedal is not depressed or “N” is not displayed, the engine will not start.)
- The engine immobilizer system may not have been deactivated. (→P. 53)
- In order to protect the engine, the engine may not start when the engine coolant temperature or the engine oil temperature is below -13°F (-25°C). In that case, a buzzer will sound and “Temp low Engine cannot be started” will be shown on the meter. (→P. 327)

When the steering lock cannot be released

When starting the engine, the ignition switch may seem stuck in the “LOCK” position. To free it, turn the key while turning the steering wheel slightly left and right.

Key reminder function

A buzzer sounds if the driver’s door is opened while the ignition switch is in the “LOCK” or “ACC” position to remind you to remove the key.

After reconnecting the battery

If the gear indicator is not displayed when an attempt is made to start the engine, the engine is not yet ready to start. Depress the brake pedal for several seconds and wait for the gear indicator to appear.

CAUTION

When starting the engine

Always start the engine while sitting in the driver's seat. Do not press the accelerator pedal while starting the engine under any circumstances.
Doing so may cause an accident, resulting in death or serious injury.

Caution when driving

Do not turn the ignition switch to the "LOCK" position while driving. An accident may result if the engine is stopped while driving.
If you must turn the engine off while the vehicle is moving (due to an emergency), turn the ignition switch only to the "ACC" position. (→P. 355)

NOTICE

To prevent battery discharge

Do not leave the ignition switch in the "ACC" or "ON" position for long periods of time without the engine running.

When starting the engine

- Do not race a cold engine.
- If the engine becomes difficult to start or stalls frequently, have the engine checked immediately.

ASG (Automated Sequential Gearbox)

The LFA is equipped with a sequential manual transmission with automated clutch and shifting mechanisms (ASG). Driving modes can be selected according to personal preference and include AUTO driving mode, which allows automatic gear shifting, and SPORT, NORMAL, and WET driving modes which enable manual gear shifting using the paddle shift switches. The shift speed can be adjusted to seven different levels when in any mode other than AUTO driving mode.

Switch operation

1 "+" Paddle shift switch (Upshift/Switch to a forward gear)

Shifts up by one gear each time this switch is pulled.
Selects a forward gear if pulled when Neutral is selected.

2 "-" Paddle shift switch (Downshift)

Shifts down by one gear each time this switch is pulled.

3 Reverse selector switch

4 Driving mode selector switch (→P. 104)

5 Shift speed selector (→P. 107)

■ Shifting to Neutral

Pull both paddle shift switches at the same time.

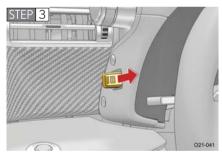
"N" is shown on the gear indicator.

■ Shifting to Reverse

Reverse cannot be selected when in a forward gear, and a forward gear cannot be selected when in Reverse. Make sure to select Neutral before shifting.

STEP 1 Stop the vehicle.

STEP 2 Pull both paddle shift switches at the same time to select Neutral.

STEP 3

Pull the reverse selector switch.

The gear display changes to "R" and the indicator illuminates in amber.

To shift out of Reverse, pull both paddle shift switches to select Neutral.

Driving modes

The LFA has four driving modes, each of which varies the control characteristics of items such as the electronic throttle, VSC and TRAC according to driving conditions. Driving modes can be selected using the driving mode selector switch or paddle shift switches.

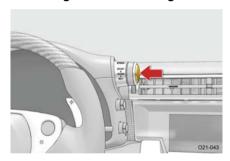
Driving mode characteristics

Driving mode	Gear shifting	Meter display/ Gear indicator	Details
AUTO	Automatic		The optimal gear is selected automatically according to the throttle opening and vehicle speed.
SPORT	Manual		Dynamic performance can be maximized on dry roads.
NORMAL			Manual shift driving is possible by using the paddle shift switches.

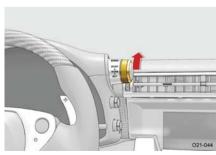
Driving mode	Gear shifting	Meter display/ Gear indicator	Details
WET	Manual		Dynamic performance can be maximized in slippery road conditions.

■ **Selecting driving modes**

Driving modes can be selected using the following procedures:

Switching to AUTO driving mode

Press the AUTO driving mode button.

Release the accelerator pedal before pressing the button.

Switching to SPORT driving mode

Turn the driving mode selector switch upward.

To change from WET driving mode, turn the driving mode selector switch twice.

Switching to NORMAL driving mode

1. When AUTO driving mode is selected:
   Pull the “+” paddle shift switch.

   When the vehicle is stopped in Neutral, pull the “+” paddle shift switch twice.

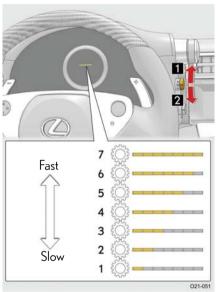
2. When SPORT driving mode is selected:
   Turn the driving mode selector switch downward.
3. When WET driving mode is selected:
   Turn the driving mode selector switch upward.

Switching to WET driving mode

Turn the driving mode selector switch downward.

To change from SPORT driving mode, turn the driving mode selector switch twice.

Shift speed selection

One of seven different shift speeds can be selected for SPORT, NORMAL, and WET driving modes using the shift speed selector. The selected shift speed level is indicated on the meter.

1 Fast (shorter shifting time)

2 Slow (longer shifting time)

The shift speed is shown below the speedometer. The more indicator lights that are illuminated, the faster the shift speed (less time required for gear changes).

Starting off control

The ASG does not have the creep function of a conventional automatic transmission. The vehicle can be driven by selecting 1st gear or Reverse and depressing the accelerator pedal.

Maximum speed for each gear

To avoid over-revving the engine, do not exceed the maximum speed for each gear as shown below.

mph (km/h)

Gear	Maximum speed*
1	51 (83)
2	76 (123)
3	103 (167)
4	135 (218)
5	172 (277)

*: Always observe the legal speed limit when driving on public roads.

Gear shift control

To ensure safety and driving performance, the following restrictions exist:

- Gear shifting with the paddle shift switches may not be possible under certain driving conditions.
- Even while driving with a gear manually selected in SPORT, NORMAL, or WET driving mode, the gears may change automatically under certain driving conditions.
- If the paddle shift switches are operated repeatedly in a short space of time, a temporary restriction of gear shifting may be activated. In this case, “Transmission pump overheat Shift rejected” will be displayed on the meter. (→P. 327)
- Gear shifting with the paddle shift switches may not be possible when the transmission fluid temperature is low. In this case, “Transmission temp low Shift restricted” will be displayed on the meter. (→P. 327)

When the gear indicator flashes

This indicates that gear shifting did not complete properly after the paddle shift switches were operated.
Operate the paddle shift switches again. If the indicator does not return to normal after a while, contact your Lexus dealer.

Buzzer that sounds when the paddle shift switches are operated

In certain situations where gear shifting with the paddle shift switches is rejected, a buzzer may sound twice.

Reverse warning buzzer

A warning buzzer sounds to notify the driver when Reverse is selected.

Reverse selector switch operation

Always make sure that the vehicle is completely stopped before selecting Reverse. If the vehicle is in motion, Reverse may not be selected even if the reverse selector switch is operated.

Notes on switching driving modes

- When pressing the AUTO driving mode button, always release the accelerator pedal. It may not be possible to select AUTO driving mode if the accelerator pedal is depressed.
- When the driving mode is changed to AUTO driving mode, a gear shift may be automatically performed according to driving conditions.

Automatic cancelation of driving modes

When the engine is stopped, the currently selected driving mode will be canceled and AUTO driving mode will be selected automatically.

Shift speed

- When the driving mode is changed, the shift speed levels will be set as follows:

Driving mode	Default level	Adjustable range
AUTO	2	—
SPORT	5	1 – 7
NORMAL	3	
WET	1	

- Shift shock increases as the shift speed becomes faster.

When parking the vehicle

There is no P (Park) setting for the ASG. When parking the vehicle, set the parking brake, select 1st gear or Reverse, and check that the gear indicator shows "D1", "1" or "R" before stopping the engine.

- Approximately one second after the engine is stopped, the vehicle will enter a parked gear state.
  If the vehicle fails to enter a parked gear state, a buzzer sounds and the gear indicator flashes. Select Neutral and then follow the same procedure again.
- Make sure to stop the engine. Opening the driver's door without first stopping the engine will cause a warning to sound and Neutral to be automatically selected after 5 seconds. Even if the driver's door is not opened, a warning will sound and Neutral will be automatically selected after 90 seconds.

ASG operating sounds

- Even when the engine is stopped, operating sounds of the electric oil pump may be heard. This is normal and does not indicate a malfunction.
- As the drive train of the LFA is designed to be especially responsive to accelerator pedal operation, a sound may be heard from the transaxle when driving at low engine speeds. This does not indicate a malfunction.

Customization that can be configured at your Lexus dealer

The sound pattern of the reverse warning buzzer can be changed.
(Customizable features →P. 383)

CAUTION

■ **Driving on slippery roads**

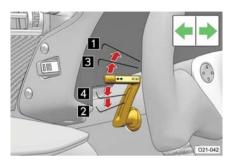
Do not suddenly accelerate or change gears. Sudden changes in engine braking force may cause the vehicle to skid sideways or spin, resulting in an accident.

NOTICE

■ **To prevent battery discharge**

While the engine is stopped, do not operate the paddle shift switches, reverse selector switch, driving mode selector switch or shift speed selector repeatedly.

Turn signal lever

The turn signal lever can be used to show the following intentions of the driver:

1 Right turn

2 Left turn

3 Move and hold the lever part-way to signal a lane change

The right hand signal will flash until you release the lever.

4 Move and hold the lever part-way to signal a lane change

The left hand signal will flash until you release the lever.

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n **Turn signals can be operated when**

The ignition switch is in the "ON" position.

n **If the indicator flashes faster than usual**

A light bulb in the front or rear turn signal light may have burned out. Have the vehicle inspected at your Lexus dealer.

Parking brake

For the parking brake, an electrical parking brake system is adopted.

1 Press the switch to set the parking brake.

If the parking brake switch is operated when the ignition switch is not in the "ON" position, the parking brake indicator light will come on and stay on for a while.

Press and hold the parking brake switch if an emergency occurs and it is necessary to operate the parking brake while driving. The parking brake is applied only while the switch is being pressed.

2 Pull the switch to release the parking brake.

Operate the parking brake switch while depressing the brake pedal. Make sure that the parking brake indicator light goes off.

Parking brake operation

- When the ignition switch is not in the "ON" position, the parking brake cannot be released using the parking brake switch.
- If the parking brake is operated repeatedly over a short period of time, the system may restrict operation to prevent overheating. In this case, "Parking brake overheat" is shown on the meter. (→P. 327)

Parking brake operation sound

The motor sounds when the parking brake operates. This does not indicate a malfunction.

Parking brake indicator light

When the ignition switch is turned to the "ACC" or "LOCK" position with the parking brake set, the parking brake indicator light will stay on for a while. This does not indicate a malfunction.

When there is a malfunction in the system

Warning lights and/or warning messages will turn on or flash. (→P. 325, 327)
Depending on the condition, the parking brake indicator light may flash.

NOTICE

When parking the vehicle

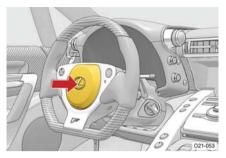
Before you leave the vehicle, set the parking brake, select 1st gear or Reverse, and stop the engine. Make sure that the vehicle does not move.

When the system malfunctions

Stop the vehicle in a safe place and check the warning messages.

When the parking brake cannot be released due to a malfunction

Use the parking brake release tool to manually release the parking brake. (→P. 345)
Driving the vehicle with the parking brake set will lead to brake components overheating, which may affect braking performance and increase brake wear.

Horn

To sound the horn, press the pad in the middle of the steering wheel.

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n **After adjusting the steering wheel**

Make sure that the steering wheel is securely locked.
The horn may not sound if the steering wheel is not securely locked. (→P. 41)